

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1887.

Anthony Comstock.

Anthony appears to be in trouble. He complains that the New York press is opposing him and his society, in their efforts to suppress vice. That the New York press, almost as a unity, is opposing Comstock in his recent quixotic adventures is true. The only part of his complaint, therefore, demanding attention, is whether by opposing him, the metropolitan newspapers have united against the cause of virtue in favor of vice and immorality. The burden of proof is upon Comstock, for these same newspapers have a worldwide reputation for fearless advocacy of the right, and of being a very table bulwark against corruption, both social and political. If the two are at odds, all we have to say is poor Anthony Comstock!

There has appeared upon the horizon of public opinion, a cloud some what larger than a man's hand, which if he does not speedily get under cover, will develop into a shower sufficient to wash the Comstock Society for the Suppression of Vice out of sight. It is an open—a very open question if this would not be an event much to be wished for by all lovers of virtue. For if this vice (or perhaps vicious) society, is steered on its present course much longer, all the good it has done will be destroyed by the autogonists it will create, amongst the best elements of the community.

When Comstock first began, he accomplished much good, by suppressing vulgar and nasty products of the pen and pencil, which were sold and bought merely because they were nasty. This was well, and with the suppression of this sort of stuff, the object of the statute is attained. But Comstock and kindred cranks never know how to let well enough alone; it is not their nature to. The trouble with them is, they not only wish to suppress vice, which is all right, but they wish to be the judges of what constitutes vice, which is all wrong.

If the their construction of the statute is correct, then every publisher or bookseller, who sells or offers for sale, the works of Chaucer, Fielding, Shakspeare, Byron, Goethe, Balzac, Shakspeare, Virgil and Homer is liable to thousands of dollars fine, and years of imprisonment. Any one can go to Appleton's, Dodd & Mead's, Scribner's or any other most respectable publishing house in New York, and buy from the counters or leave an order for any of these works. Can it be possible that the legislature intended to people our prisons with the most gifted and intelligent part of our population? And yet this must be the result if this self-constituted little body of censors is right.

If Knickerbocker is guilty of violating the statute, by having for sale pictures and statues representing nude figures, then every member of the National Academy, and the proprietor of every art gallery should be in prison, for every year those who care for fine art have seen these pictures and pieces of statuary exhibited by them. It is doubtful if there is a picture dealer in New York where one could not buy out of stock a copy of the celebrated painting of Lady Godiva at Antwerp, and scores of others still more celebrated and admired. Away with all these dealers to Sing Sing; and since the buyer is morally as bad as the seller, let their customers go with them. Truly if this policy be carried out to its logical conclusion, the wit, beauty and virtue of the community will be largely centered in the prisons, and the outside world would be left free for murderers, thieves and swindlers; for in the nature of things these last must be kept by themselves, and if the refined, cultured and god fearing people are to be shut in, these others must be shut out.

If Anthony Comstock by his senseless raids on art and literature, makes the statute of the legislature a means of oppression, and brings law into ridicule and contempt, it will not long remain on the books. All the people are not yet daft.

Excelsior Hose.

"The Excelsior Hose Company boys are workers" was the remark made by one of the members of the Town Committee not long since. An inspection of the work done by this company since their organization fully corroborates that statement.

Two years ago the young men in the neighborhood of upper Broad St. conceived the idea of organizing a hose company. After battling with the usual difficulties connected with preliminary organization, they determined to buy a lot and erect a building of their own. In the face of the obstacles to be overcome this was a gigantic undertaking. The young men however, were determined in their efforts, and just here the young ladies in the neighborhood are deserving of

praise, for they lent a willing and helping hand in the carrying out of the enterprise. A lot was purchased at the corner of James and Broad Sts. Judging from the external appearance of the property at the time of purchase, it might be truly said that "the money was sunk," for it would be a difficult matter to find a deeper hole for building purposes. Since the erection of the building public opinion has changed and the members of the company are now credited with shrewd foresight. A contract was made with the well known reliable builders, Messrs. Wille & Albionson, for the erection of a building and the plans were drawn with a view to having a building that would serve in supplying the social requirements of the place as well as being useful for fire purposes. In the carrying out of this scheme the members have been eminently successful. Externally the building presents a very handsome appearance and when the projected improvements are completed it will be numbered among the objects of interest connected with the town. The first floor of the building is divided into two rooms, one for the storage of the necessary fire apparatus and the other for social purposes. A parlor, trustees' room and janitor's room take up the second floor. The sacrificing of space in the trustees and janitors rooms in favor of the parlor is very commendable as it is obvious that there is no necessity for the two former rooms being large. The trustees' room is supplied with a secretary's table and other articles necessary in the transaction of business. The parlor is well supplied with handsome, substantial chairs and a very ornamental centre table, which possesses the useful property of extension. The furniture was supplied by Mr. John G. Keyler, who was very liberal in all his dealings with the company. An especially attractive feature of the rooms is the gas fixtures. Mr. T. E. Hayes is given credit for these, as he furnished the company with his experience in this line, both in purchasing and putting them in.

On entering the rooms you are surprised to realize how warm and comfortable they are; you look around for a stove but fail to see any; on being escorted into the basement a large "Thatcher" heater is discovered to be the producer of the pleasant warmth. This heater is of a new pattern, which is now being introduced by Mr. J. B. Harvey. The heat is conducted through the building in flues and is admitted to the various rooms through adjustable registers. The water fixtures are another prominent feature of this model building, combining as they do attractiveness and usefulness. A visit to this building cannot fail to prove of interest to any who may call there. Some of the members may always be found there in the evening and visitors will be shown through the building with pleasure. It is hoped the Excelsior boys may soon realize their hearts desire and what they really deserve—a handsome new carriage.

A New Presbyterian Church.

The Presbyterian church formed by those who retired from the Valley Congregational church, because of dissatisfaction with the pastor of that church, Rev. J. E. Rankin, D. D., was fully organized and instituted last Monday evening, by a committee from the Presbytery of Morris and Orange, consisting of Revs. Dr. H. S. Hickok, Jr., Alfred Youmans and Dr. Albert Erdman, and Elders David L. Wallace and Henry E. Simmons. Rev. Dr. Hickok was Moderator of the meeting, which was held in the gymnasium at Mr. R. F. Westcott's residence, there were 250 persons present. It was opened with prayer by Rev. Erskine White, D. D., of New York, father of Rev. Stanley White, the pastor of the new church. A sermon was preached by Dr. Hickok upon the need of church organization, and then the organization of the church began.

The church has a charter membership of 119 with their families, making a congregation of about 250. The trustees will now take into consideration, at once, the purchase of property and the erection of a house of worship.

To the Editor of the Bloomfield Citizen: I take the liberty, as one of the citizens and pretty heavy taxpayers of our favored township, to make this final appeal, through your generous columns, to our Honorable Town Committee. I have dwelt in the house I now occupy for eighteen years, and the records will show that no tax has been levied against my property that has not been promptly met, the average of which is about \$150 per year. On a frontage of 304 feet, I have expended more money and labor on the street and gutter, in filling, grading and paving than the town, according to the best of my knowledge and belief, all of which has been cheerfully and freely given.

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A New Play by D. BELASCO and H. C. DE MILLE. Company includes: GEORGIA CAYAN, HELEN KELLEY, GRACE HENDERSON, HENRY MILLER, LUCIE DILLON, NELSON WHEATCROFT, MRS. WALCOT, W. J. LE MOYNE, MISS WELLES, CHAS. WALCOT, MISS CROFT, CHAS. DICKSON, MISS CROSMAN, W. FAYERSHAM.

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Attorney and Counselor at Law, Office, 750 Broad St., Newark, N. J. Residence, Elm St., Bloomfield. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS, ETC., TAKEN.

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Our \$1 a yard Rhadames are the same as sold elsewhere for \$1.25.

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ISAAC N. DOTY & CO.'S,

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Centre Table Bargains! Laces, Ribbons, Trimmings! Holiday Novelties!

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SALE, 20 new designs in ALL wool goods, pinhead checks and stripes, Scotch plaids and chevrons, mixtures, etc.

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